

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lt. Gov. Sheehy Presents Nebraska Governor Points of Light Volunteer Awards

(Lincoln, Neb.) Lieutenant Gov. Rick Sheehy will present the Nebraska Governor's Points of Light Awards at a proclamation ceremony Wednesday, October 18 at 10:30 a.m. in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. The awards are presented quarterly in recognition of volunteers who give their time, talent and energy to help Nebraskans build stronger communities.

This quarter's winners:

YOUTH CATEGORY:

Spencer Farley – Lincoln, Nebraska

Twelve year old Spencer Farley had a vision for a new flower garden along the playground fence at the Northeast Family Center in Lincoln. The Northeast Family Center is located near the historic Whitehall Mansion and is a non-profit organization that offers family service programs. Barb Gaither, Center Director, expressed a desire to save the existing trees and shrubs in the area which increased the project to a 25' X 58' garden. Spencer made a presentation to the Lincoln Iris Society and they decided to provide a donation towards the project. He also contacted local area businesses for donations of chemicals, flowering bulbs, plants, a bench, and stepping stones. To date, 100 volunteers have been involved and 100% of the garden that includes nearly 800 plants was donated, totaling over \$1,000. Spencer has definitely made an impact in the community and is an inspiration to the youth in the Lincoln community.

ADULT CATEGORY:

Pam Dinneen – Lincoln, Nebraska

Pam, a counselor at Lincoln Public Schools, founded Mourning Hope; a grief support network for children, teens, and their families. Through her school experiences, Pam saw a serious need for a community based program that would help children and teens work through their grief issues. Through Pam's vision, call to action and motivating inspiration; this organization has flowered from a single group to a thriving non-profit that has served hundreds of families and educated thousands of community members in grief reconciliation. She has donated 15 to 30 hours a week for the last 12 years building this organization and comforting grieving families. Pam is definitely a Point of Light in the Lincoln community.

GROUP CATEGORY:

Lincoln/Lancaster County Volunteer Educators–Lincoln, Nebraska

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Volunteer Educators are dedicated individuals that provide outreach and education to support the goals of the Nebraska Citizen Corps program. Their mission is "to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger and better prepared to respond to threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues and disasters of all kinds." These educators give presentations as well as conduct workshops and exercises for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, Medical Reserve Corps, Emergency Volunteer Centers (EVC), at community events and to community organizations. The group meets monthly to keep up to date on disaster preparedness information. The team members are: Janis Darrington,

Bonnie Filipi, Marcia Greve, Greg Lugn, Bruce Marxsen, Peggy Parker, Geri Powell, Don Poysa and Leslie Wehnes. This group is truly a role model for community service.

Each quarter, Commissioners from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission review award nominations and make final recommendations to the Governor. The awards are sponsored by Woodmen of the World.

To nominate individuals and groups who have made a difference through volunteerism for a Governor's Points of Light Award, please visit <http://www.nvsc.ne.gov> to obtain a nomination form and instructions, or contact 402-471-6225 or (800) 291-8911 to request information.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established by Governor Executive Order in 1994 to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state and nation through volunteer and community service. It is funded by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal Department of Homeland Security through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and State General funds. A 23-member Governor-appointed Commission oversees the NVSC.

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